

And then she told me, and I wondered what tales the dresses would tell if they themselves could speak. How many happy hearts throbbed for a few hours under the laces? How many girls were crushed into the arms of boy-man husbands, and how many mothers had cried and tear-spotted the same dresses.

The woman with the drab face and drab voice was talking again.

"Sometimes I think that I can see the girls in the dresses when I look at them hanging in the window. Sometimes the poor things, have brought me a piece of wedding cake, and sometimes they have seemed ashamed that I should know they couldn't buy their wedding dresses, and sometimes they just laugh and say:

"When my daughter gets married she'll have a handmade dress with real Duchess lace."

"But they're all happy for the little while they wear their wedding dresses, and who knows, maybe they're just as happy as the girls that can afford to have them made."

A man entered and so I left the store, but as I stood outside looking through the window at the three limp wedding dresses, somehow I felt, too, as though I could vision a radiant little girl bride in each of them. And somehow, I thought, too, that perhaps those little girl brides in rented wedding dresses were just as happy as the girls who could afford to have their dresses made.

But what a tale of romance those "wedding dresses for rent" might tell.

EVANS AND TAYLOR TALK FOR ROSENWALD ON VICE

Julius Rosenwald attended the meeting of the health committee which is at present discussing the vice question. He sat far back in the shadows.

Chairman Nance caught sight of him. "Will you say something on the question, Mr. Rosenwald?" Chairman Nance beamed.

Rosenwald seemed ruffled. Possibly his mind turned back to that astonishing afternoon when he had testified last on the vice question. It was before Barratt O'Hara's vice commission. It was the day that a young, clear-eyed girl, fair to look up, stripped the mask of philanthropy from the face of Rosenwald and held up the great Sears-Roebuck institution as a thing of horror. It was then that the story of rotten wages; of the slave driving system; of the 10-cent water, and other things came out.

So now Rosenwald thought for a second. Then he answered very slowly:

"Dr. Evans represents my views."

And from the way Evans analyzed vice it was evident that he not only represented the views of Rosenwald, but that he represented the views of all employers who pay starvation wages.

He talked about the social diseases; he talked about a permanent morals commission. And then he named the causes of vice. His causes were the same old bunk, amusement parks, ice cream parlors, home environment, etc. But he didn't mention low wages. He "represented the views of Julius Rosenwald."

Graham Taylor also talked. Taylor, like Evans, also gives vice theories acceptable to Big Business. Some one asked him if he thought breaking up the levee had made much improvement in Chicago.

"O, my, yes," he answered.

"Well, doctor," an alderman asked him, "what do you think has become of the 2,500 women that were driven from the district?"

"I don't know," he answered. "I suppose they've gone somewhere. But I don't think there is as much soliciting as usual."

Taylor also said he believed the sale of liquor should be prohibited in dance halls. "But," he added, "we must be careful not to interfere with the liberties of private clubs."